



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Burundi: Uprona Party Denounces Plans To Send Foreign Troops

EA2905203396 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Unity for National Progress Party [Uprona] has issued a statement denouncing comments by the international community about sending foreign troops imminently to our country. Uprona says it is politically incomprehensible for the international community to think of sending troops, as this would be tantamount to abusing the independence the country has been enjoying for more than 30 years, an independence that was hard earned by the party.

The party recalls that Article 174 of the Burundi Constitution stipulates that no agreement can be reached on placing foreign troops inside the country, so no foreign troops whatsoever can be present in any part of Burundi, as this would contravene the Constitution.

Uprona stated that should the international community take a unilateral decision to send troops to Burundi, the party has the power to call on all Burundians to fight the aggressive and oppressive force.

Uprona criticized the country's leaders, the National Assembly, the National Security Council, saying that they are busy holding meetings and yet nobody raises a voice to denounce the international community's intention to send an intervention force. They should be disowning those preaching the genocide of people who do not share their views or who do not support their genocide idea.

In regard to the international community's intentions of sending troops to Burundi, the party feels that this would only worsen the situation, so the party urges the international community to reverse its thinking, and to stop concurring with those who are asking for the dispatch of foreign troops, as if they do not even remember that they once achieved independence.

Uprona strongly urges the country's governing institutions to show citizens how to behave and to stop keeping quiet, because this indicates that they support the evil plans being prepared for the country. The party said if the institutions fail to show that they can lead the people there will be nothing left but to disown them.

Burundi: France Suspends Military Cooperation Due to 'Security Problems'

EA2905135696 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] France announced yesterday that it would suspend its military cooperation with

Burundi because of the country's security problems. All 23 military cooperation workers operating in Burundi will leave the country on 9 June.

According to diplomats, France has also decided to take part for the first time as an observer at a planning meeting on our country due to take place at the UN [word or words indistinct] in New York yesterday. [passage omitted]

Burundi: EU Seeks Strict Control of Arms Trade in Border Regions

BR2905150596 Antwerp DE
FINANCIEEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD in Dutch
29 May 96 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The genocide in Burundi is well on its way to becoming a full-blown civil war. This was stated by Belgian Secretary of State for Development Cooperation Reginald Moreels yesterday. The EU countries are calling for a strict control of arms trade in the border region. In the last few days, the Fifteen had talks with UN negotiator Jimmy Carter and European negotiator Aldo Ayello about the issue.

On Tuesday [28 May] the Belgian Foreign Ministry ordered the principal of the Belgian school in the Burundian capital of Bujumbura to close down the institution on account of the deteriorated situation in the Central African country. The French school was closed for the same reason a few days ago. France also suspended its military cooperation with Burundi yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also reminded to the numerous warnings addressed to the approximately 510 Belgians who are still staying in Burundi. On Tuesday during a raid by Hutu rebels on a camp for Tutsi refugees in Butezi, in the eastern Burundian province of Ruhigi, another 51 people were killed and 25 injured.

Arms Trade

Belgian Ambassador Marc Van Craen is about to return to Bujumbura, after talks with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is mediating on the part of the United Nations in Central Africa. On Monday night Carter and European negotiator Aldo Ayello had a meeting with the European development cooperation ministers. The EU ministers are calling for international supervision on arms trade in the border regions with Zaire and Rwanda. They support Carter's suggestion to create a demilitarized zone at Zaire's borders with Rwanda and Burundi.

The European Commission wants to appropriate \$700 million for development programs, once the "political

and security situation makes it possible to resume development aid." Europe has already appropriated a similar amount for humanitarian aid in the area, especially in Burundi and Rwanda. In three weeks an international donor conference for the reconstruction of Rwanda will be held in Geneva.

Burundi: Belgian Government Urges Closure of School

EA2905192796 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Belgian Government yesterday called on the authorities of the Belgian School in Bujumbura to close the institution quickly. The Belgian Government, as in the case of France last week, explained that this is due to the deteriorating security situation in Burundi.

Meanwhile, some (7510) Belgian cooperation workers in Burundi have been advised not to travel to the inner part of the country.

Cameroon

Cameroon Said Reinforcing Troops in Bakassi Peninsula

AB2905220296 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Something is afoot in Bakassi where we have learned that Cameroon is concentrating troops on this peninsula which is the object of a border conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria. Our Lagos correspondent, Tunde Fatunde, sent us this report:

[Begin Fatunde recording] According to diplomatic and military sources, Cameroon is continuing to reinforce its military presence in the peninsula with the concentration of war equipment, and the positioning of about 5,000 soldiers in the strategic locality of Dida Bato in Bakassi, while Nigeria presently has over 3,000 men armed to the teeth in a neighboring locality. In short, despite the international community's appeals for moderation to the two nations in conflict, Bakassi is being slowly changed into a new West African powder keg. [end recording]

Central African Republic

CAR: Negotiations Under Way Between Government, Mutineers

AB2905175496 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Central African Republic [CAR], a new series of negotiations is going on between the mutineers and the government authorities.

The mutineers, who have so far negotiated only with French General Bernard Thorette, have been holding direct negotiations with the CAR Government. These negotiations, which opened in principle at the National Assembly Palace, are going on in the presence of the archbishop of Bangui, Monsignor Joachim Ndayen, and the chairman of the Human Rights League, Nicolas Tanguaye.

These two men played a mediating role during the mutiny. There is no information on the agenda of these negotiations, but it is believed that the preparation of the Amnesty Law, one of the main demands of the mutineers which President Ange Patasse accepted, could be discussed. These negotiations are going on while President Patasse is going to address his fellow citizens this evening after an inspection tour of the capital, Bangui, from where our special correspondent, Rodrigue Asseyi, reports:

[Begin Asseyi recording] During the events that shook the CAR, 43 persons were killed. They include 11 soldiers and 32 civilians. The number of wounded can be counted in dozens. This official report was made public in a statement in Bangui today by the CAR head of state. In a very hard tone, President Patasse spoke about the country being shattered, the people shipwrecked, national unity crippled, and confidence eroded. The CAR was on the verge of civil war, he remarked. Today, however, this country is coming out of an exceptional crisis, Ange-Felix Patasse stated.

In the face of the extensive material damage, the prospective rise in unemployment, and the psychological consequences, President Patasse appealed to politicians, urging them to forget their differences and to promote national unity with only one watchword: No power through the muzzle of the gun, but at the polls. To businessmen, he promised the return of confidence. To the international community, he made an urgent appeal for the setting up of a damage evaluation commission and substantial aid for reconstruction.

This much expected statement was in general very welcomed because a few political parties that were contacted soon after the statement were of the opinion that this statement will cool down people's spirits. [end recording] [passage omitted]

CAR: Patasse Appeals for World Aid To Recover From Mutiny

AB2905162596 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangui, 29 May (AFP) — President Ange-Felix Patasse made an urgent appeal

on Wednesday [29 May] to his compatriots and the international community to help the Central African Republic recover from a devastating 10-day mutiny.

"Reconstruction should be the business of the international community, which has always been at our side in such times of trial," he said in an address to the nation.

The mutiny killed 43 people, 11 of them soldiers, and injured 238, Patasse quoted Red Cross figures as saying. Of the injured, 212 were civilians and 26 were soldiers.

Beyond the deaths and injuries, the rebellion had a devastating impact on the country, which has never come so close to civil war, said Patasse.

"Trust, an essential condition for attracting foreign funds that are renewed and strengthened, has been eroded. The image of the Central African Republic, which was regaining its dignity, has been seriously tarnished."

Material damage "from the destruction of the fragile economic fabric and the pillage of private goods" has been enormous, he said.

"The social consequences of this destruction will be dramatic, especially for unemployment, which will surely increase."

The rebellion has also inflicted immeasurable psychological damage, he said. "By the hundreds, foreigners who invested in the Central African Republic, who were born here, who felt at home, had to leave — repatriated under dramatic conditions."

Patasse's speech could not be broadcast on state radio because the building was destroyed in fighting when rebel soldiers tried to seize it.

Soldiers in the Central African Republic who led a 10-day mutiny against the regime of President Ange-Felix Patasse began direct negotiations on Wednesday with the government.

Mutineers had previously negotiated only with General Bernard Thorette, in charge of the French military operation that supported the government during the conflict. Bangui is a key French military base in Africa.

The rebel soldiers agreed on Sunday to a general return to the Kasai military barracks in the eastern part of Bangui, after Patasse promised them amnesty, ending the fighting.

Negotiations on Wednesday would focus on the preparation of an amnesty law, an informed source said.

Archbishop Joachim N'Dayen of Bangui and League of Human Rights President Nicolas Tiangaye, who acted as mediators throughout the crisis, were expected to attend the talks at the National Assembly. Opposition

parties on Tuesday laid out their conditions for entering a government of national unity. Their demands include more power for the prime minister.

CAR: Patasse Expected To Meet Opposition Prior To Announcing PM

LD3005102496 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 30 MAY 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Central African Republic, President Patasse is expected to meet opposition leaders this morning before he announces his choice for a new prime minister. The opposition seems to have rejected the head of state's alleged plan to appoint the current Central African ambassador to Paris as prime minister.

In an address to the nation on 29 May President Patasse gave the toll of the mutiny of a section of the armed forces: 43 people died, including 11 soldiers, and 238 were injured, most of them civilians. He said the damage was considerable and psychological consequences were unfathomable. He added his country had never been so close to civil war.

It was not possible to broadcast this speech on national radio since the station was destroyed in the clashes between the mutineers and the French armed forces during the first days of the mutiny.

Among the hostages held by the mutineers during their uprising was the National Assembly speaker, Mr. Dobodenzi [as heard]. He spoke to Jean-Jacques Louarne:

[Begin recording] [Dobozendi] I put together a delegation of five deputies, including myself, to try to meet the mutineers in an attempt to break the deadlock. That was around 1200 on 18 May. On the same day, at 1930 I was kidnapped from my home.

[Louarne] Did you ever fear for your own life during your kidnapping?

[Dobozendi] I did, especially when we were informed that the French armed forces had killed a Central African soldier. We were made to stand in order to be shot in retaliation. [end recording]

CAR: Opposition Calls For Review of Constitution

LD2905145996 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On to the Central African Republic. Patasse is like the CFA franc; he has been devalued by half, according to one of the leaders of the Democratic Council of Opposition Parties, Codepo. This gives the flavor of the political atmosphere in Bangui.

The opposition yesterday set out its conditions for a participation in a national union government. That is what the seven parties which make up Codepo announced at a news conference. The review of the Constitution is one of Codepo's priorities. That is what one of the opposition leaders, Abel Goumba, told Jean-Jacques Louarne:

[Begin Goumba recording] The Constitution gives a lot of power to the president, which has allowed President Patasse to drift towards dictatorship. He has a lot of power, and there is no democratic check. Just look at the National Assembly, the government, the administration staff, as I told you earlier [words indistinct] negotiate local representation — all this in the hands of a single man. That is dictatorship. [end recording]

President Patasse is expected to make a statement later today at the Foreign Ministry. He is supposed to discuss the situation in his country. The army mutiny resulted in 32 deaths among civilians and 112 injured.

The World Bank will wait until calm has been totally restored and a new government has been appointed to resume dialogue with Bangui. It will have to put back on the rails eight ongoing projects with the Central African Republic. The same goes for the European Union. The 15 ministers responsible for development say they are monitoring developments in the Central African Republic.

Rwanda

Rwanda: Violence Flares Up Again, Human Rights Deteriorate

BR2905151396 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT
in Dutch 29 May 96 p 5

[Article by Els de Temmerman: "Judges in Rwanda Seek Protection"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to Rwandan national radio 17 people were killed in incidents in Rwanda last weekend, including six children. An attack by Hutu rebels in the eastern province of Kibungo led to nine of these deaths, the radio reported. One week earlier, in the early morning of 21 May, 26 prisoners were shot dead in Bugarama, in southwest Rwanda.

Kigali attributed the attack to militia members of the former regime, who launched the attack from a refugee

camp in one of the neighboring countries. But even in government circles there are doubts about the official version.

The incidents are illustrative of the increase in violence and human rights violations in Rwanda. According to the UN human rights organization, 174 people were killed in 45 separate incidents during April, 124 of them by "agents of the state."

The previous month about 100 people were killed, more than half by infiltrated soldiers and Hutu militias from the camps in Zaire.

"The deteriorating human rights situation," explains Marc Prohardt, leader of the human rights operation in Rwanda, "is due to the increased number of infiltrations over recent months. The attacks in the western provinces have increased to two or three a week in some areas. They are also getting better organized."

Marc Prohardt continues: "This is because the attackers have a strong base in Zaire and can operate with impunity. The targets are mainly the local authorities in Rwanda and survivors or witnesses to the genocide. One of the infiltrators had a list of names of people who had escaped the genocide and who were to be killed."

The Rwandan Army has reacted with search and reprisal operations and arrests. Over the past month the number of arrests in Rwanda has increased sharply again to between 800 and 1,000 a week. The introduction of new identity cards has something to do with it. More than 71,000 Rwandans are being held in overcrowded prisons and detention centers throughout the country. Although their living conditions have dramatically improved through the opening of new prisons and special reception centers for women and children, the Red Cross describes the situation as far from satisfactory.

"The overcrowding remains a major problem," says Anne Ryniker of the International Committee of the Red Cross. "Our teams report serious health problems, such as edema and foot infections caused by standing for long periods on damp and dirty ground." A fight at the overcrowded Kivumu prison left 17 dead at the beginning of the month. [passage omitted]

South Africa: Mandela Political Speech Violates Election Law

*MB2905201196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1922 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 29 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela broke election law by making a political speech to supporters at Grabouw on Wednesday [29 May] afternoon, ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus has confirmed.

However the speech, in which he said the NP [National Party] was a Mickey Mouse party and was disappearing, had been a bona fide mistake, he told a media briefing.

A spokeswoman for the Western Cape's election coordinating centre said regulations were that anyone holding or participating in a public meeting or rally in the 48 hours up to midnight on Wednesday was guilty of an offence. She did not know what the penalty was.

Niehaus said that when the President arrived at Grabouw by helicopter to visit a local government polling booths, he was met by a large crowd and made a short speech which included statements about the NP "which could be interpreted as electioneering".

Afterwards the President told him "he had forgotten today was not yesterday" and immediately asked his staff to contact Deputy President and NP leader FW de Klerk. Mandela had told de Klerk he had "slipped up" and the two men had agreed the issue would not be taken further.

Niehaus said the President had acted with "absolute integrity". "It was a bona fide mistake from the side of the President in a particular context and should be seen in that light."

Niehaus, who did not hear the speech, said Mandela told him he had said the NP was a disappearing party. This, Niehaus said, was "truth said just at the wrong moment".

Earlier, National Party spokeswoman Anna van Wyk told a media briefing that if Mandela had made a political speech, he would have been transgressing the rules.

South Africa: Mandela Apologizes to De Klerk for 'Derogatory' Speech

*MB3005082396 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television
Network in English 0400 GMT 30 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nelson Mandela has personally apologized to Mr. F.W. de Klerk for a derogatory remark made while addressing voters. ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus confirmed that President Mandela broke election law by making a political

speech to supporters at Grabouw. He said the speech in which Mr. Mandela called the National Party a disappearing party had been a bona fide mistake.

South Africa: Voting 'Strong' Despite Predicted Voter Apathy

*MB2905191196 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 1500 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Voter interest in the metropolitan area of the Western Cape is strong despite confusion about the voting procedure in today's local government elections. But pressure is mounting as long queues of voters struggle to meet the ten o'clock deadline. Nick Whitely reports.

[Begin Whitely recording] Election officials in the metro were taken by surprise as thousands of voters streamed to the polls, despite predictions of voter apathy. Queues of voters are especially long in the Khayelitsha and Gugulethu wards, but election officers say they can vote if they are within a 500 meter precinct of the voting station by the deadline of ten o'clock. The day has passed peacefully with the usual smattering of political barn fights between the parties. In the rural areas, independent reports confirm that the turnout has been much better than expected, and that farmers have helped transport workers to the polls. The first results are expected from the northern metro sub-structure early tomorrow morning. In most areas counting starts tomorrow. [end recording]

South Africa: Voters in Black Areas Showing 'Greater Enthusiasm'

*MB2905132496 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 1100 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Voters in predominantly black areas in the Western Cape have shown greater enthusiasm than their white counterparts so far in today's local government elections, but most of the hiccups have occurred in the townships where queues formed as early as 4 O'clock [0200 GMT] this morning. Nick Whitely has more:

[Begin Whitely recording] Despite the bitter cold, long queues had developed by 5 o'clock [0300 GMT] at Waleedene and Makoni Beam Squatter Camps outside Cape Town, but many voters were turned away from the polls because their ID documents were destroyed in fires. They were taken to home affairs offices and issued with temporary documents that enabled them to vote. There were also problems with voting materials at stations in Khayelitsha. Although some stations opened late, Chief Election Coordinator Joppa le Roux says polls must close at 10 o'clock [2000 GMT] tonight.

All people in the precinct of the polling stations will be allowed to vote. President Mandela and Provincial Premier Hennis Kriel cast their votes in the central structure this morning. In the rural areas voting was slow for the first two hours but picked up later. There are no reports of intimidation thus far. [end recording]

Voting at the Happy Valley Squatter Camp near Blue Downs is being slowed down because of illiteracy, and a lack of voter education. Maxine Greeff reports:

[Begin Greeff recording] Officials working at the polling station at Happy Valley Squatter Camp say voting is being hindered by the high rate of illiteracy of voters, and mainly because of a lack of voter education. One of the party agents says many voters were shocked to find three ballot papers. He said it seems that because people can't read or write, they are voting for parties they recognize easily, without really being aware of what the party stands for. [end recording]

South Africa: ANC Rejects NP Proposal To Remain in Northern Cape Cabinet

MB2905195496 Johannesburg SABC 3 Television Network in English 1800 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ANC in the Northern Cape has rejected the NP's [National Party] proposals to stay on in the Northern Cape Cabinet. This decision by the ANC follows negotiations between the two parties, after the NP's national announcement earlier to withdraw from all provincial cabinets except the Western Cape.

[Begin recording] [SABC reporter James Barkhuizen] During the 1994 elections, the NP in the Northern Cape gained 40 percent of the vote, but even though the ANC gathered 49 percent of the vote, they were unable to gain a two-thirds majority. After two weeks of negotiations between the ANC and the NP, Northern Cape Premier Manne Dipico today announced the ANC's rejection of the NP's proposal to remain part of the provincial cabinet.

[Dipico, in progress] ...opposition then becomes opposition. When we become government, then we govern, you appoint. [sentence as heard] We were very confident that, in the Northern Cape, the government of national unity, within the confines of the interim constitution, was very good for the Northern Cape. It was working, and working very well. But if people want to retain that status and still be outside, it was going to create a problem, and no other party would agree to have that type of situation.

[Barkhuizen] The four MEC [Member of the Executive Council] portfolios held by the NP will now be distributed among the other MECs. The agricultural port-

folio will be combined with land affairs, under a newly appointed ANC MEC, Mr. (Thabo Mkoaya). This will reduce the number of provincial cabinet ministers from 10 to 7. At a press conference, Mr. Dipico said the decision not to share power with the NP any longer was not an easy one.

[Dipico] This divorce is not an easy divorce. Getting divorced from a person you've been having a good relationship with is not an easy thing.

[Barkhuizen] The Democratic Party's one seat, and the Freedom Front's two seats remain unaffected. [end recording]

South Africa: National Party No Longer Part of Northern Cape Government

MB2905155096 Johannesburg SABC Radio Network in English 0400 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Party [NP] will no longer be part of the Northern Cape government. Northern Cape Premier, Manne Dipico announced in the legislature in Kimberley today that NP proposals for continued participation in the government were not acceptable to the ANC. Mr. Dipico, who insisted that further participation by the NP occur in terms of the interim constitution, said he regretted the departure of the NP. The ANC and the NP have been negotiating the possible continuation of a government of unity in the Northern Cape, since the NP's decision to withdraw from the national and provincial governments.

South Africa: Voting Ends in 'Close-Run' Western Cape Local Elections

MB2905205296 Johannesburg SABC 1 Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Voting has just come to an end in the Western Cape. The final result is expected to be a close-run race between the NP [National Party] and the ANC. The first results are expected later on tonight. For the most part, the process has gone smoothly. In some areas like Khayelitsha, voting stations were flooded with too many voters, causing delays. In other areas, many voters did not understand the ballot system, and in some cases, voters went to the wrong voting stations.

[Begin SABC reporter Linda van Tilburg recording] It was still dark when the Western Cape electorate turned up at polling stations at 7 o'clock this morning. In some areas, however, people had already been queuing for hours. An initial problem identified in many areas was that polling stations did not open on time, which caused delays. Other problems included voters turning up at polling stations where they weren't registered, long queues, and ink not being delivered.

Several national leaders made their crosses in the Western Cape today, among them President Nelson Mandela, who caused a stir when he walked from his official residence to a Rondebosch polling station, and then he forgot his glasses. DP [Democratic Party] leader Tony Leon and the PAC's [Pan-Africanist Congress] Clarence Makwetu also cast their votes. Deputy President F. W. de Klerk did not vote in this election. He turned up at several polling stations, to his supporters' delight. Freedom Front leader Constand Viljoen also did his rounds.

But election officials walked the extra mile, solving problems, and also driving people to the right voting stations. In rural areas, where 152 voters [figure as heard] had been registered, the voting rate was slow. In [name indistinct] on the Cape south coast, only three people voted the entire morning. More people arrived to cast their votes later in the day, and it was clear that everybody was eager to make their crosses. In some cases, voters walked for up to two hours to catch buses which would take them to polling stations. In most cases farmers willingly drove their workers to voting points. One of the substructures, the Northern substructure, starts counting tonight, and first results are expected early tomorrow morning. [end recording]

South Africa: Election Results From Rural Areas 'Trickling in'

MB3005074496 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0500 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first results of yesterday's local elections in the Western Cape have started coming in. For the latest update we cross over to Isabelle Oosthuizen at the Election Operation Center in Whale Street.

[Oosthuizen] Good morning, Prudence. Here at the Operation Center the results are slowly but surely trickling in. We have results of two of the district councils in the rural areas. Let me give you without further ado:

The Central Karroo: Beaufort West, we have six for the National Party, one for the ANC; Prince Albert, seven for the National Party, one for the ANC; Laingsburg, five for the National Party, 2 ANC; and Murraysburg, seven for the National Party and one for the ANC. Bear in mind that it's only the eight proportional representative seats. The other two out of the 10 will be nominated — one by the farmers, and one by the farm workers.

West Coast District Council: Malmesbury, seven for the National Party, one for the ANC; Piketberg, seven for the National Party, one for the ANC; Clanwilliam, five National Party, three ANC; Vredendal, five for

the National Party, three ANC; and Vanrhynsdorp, six National Party, two for the ANC.

And in the Wynlands district: There are two wards, Stellenbosch and Paarl. We only have Stellenbosch at this stage — three for the National Party, two for the ANC, and we see the first results for a civic-based organization, the Stellenbosch landbouvereniging [agricultural association], they've got three of the seats there.

We've got no results at this stage from the metropolises. They're still counting. It's going to take some time before it comes in, we reckon by tonight we'll have most of those. I spoke to the National Provincial Coordinator this morning. He told me that the report we had last night on the seven wards running out of ballot papers in Khayelitsha was correct, but not entirely. They did run out of ballot papers, but the officials anticipated it, so they had enough ballot papers there before the voting actually came to a halt.

The only other thing that I could mention is that there were very few spoilt ballot papers in the rural areas. It seems that the Election Education Program has been very, very successful. The ANC also withdrew the request they made last night to extend voting time by about two hours, so the voting stopped at 10 o'clock [2000 GMT] Everybody in the perimeter could still vote. From me, Isabelle Oosthuizen, at the Operational Center.

South Africa: ANC Seeks Meeting Over Incomplete Voters' Rolls

MB3005063896 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ANC is to ask the Western Cape's multiparty liaison committee to meet this morning to discuss what it says were hundreds of lost votes in Khayelitsha. An ANC spokesperson said many voters' names had appeared on the ward and sub-structure rolls, but not on the metropolitan roll. Beleaguered election officials in Khayelitsha and Ermduleni battled throughout the day to deal with hundreds of irate voters who had queued since early morning only to find their names were not on the rolls. The ANC said that out of this morning's committee meeting, a recommendation would clearly have to be made on the freeness and fairness of the election in those areas.

South Africa: ANC 'Victory' in Louis Trichardt Local Poll*MB3005060896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0505 GMT 30 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Louis Trichardt May 30 SAPA — The African National Congress gained a substantial victory in the greater Louis Trichardt local government election in Northern Province, winning five of the 10 wards and clinching five additional seats in the voting for proportional representation.

The final results were announced at the Louis Trichardt Civic Centre shortly before sunrise on Thursday [30 May] morning. A 66 per cent poll was recorded in the election.

The town's Residents Association made a clean sweep in the five wards in the so-called white residential areas, to become the official opposition in the new local council. Several of the association's successful candidates are well known right-wingers.

Surprisingly, the National Party failed to win a seat on the new council, and the Pan-Africanist Congress attracted only one per cent of the total vote in the local election.

South Africa: NP 'Seems Set' for Victory in Western Cape Rural Areas*MB3005060296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0534 GMT 30 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town May 30 SAPA — Early results show the National Party [NP] seems set for victory in the rural areas in the Western Cape local government elections.

It has also won four metro wards in the Milnerton and Table View areas of Cape Town, while ANC candidate Philip Duma was returned for the Marconi Beam squatter camp.

The NP has dominated all four of the Central Karroo region's transitional rural councils [TRC], and has won two of the three in Winelands and West Coast TRCs for which results have come in.

Each TRC has eight proportionally elected seats, and the NP has won seven of them on each of the Murraysburg, Prince Albert, Piketburg, and Malmesbury councils.

The ANC took one seat on each of those, two in Laingsburg and one in Beaufort West.

The Stellenbosch TRC seats were split between the NP and the Stellenbosch Agricultural Association with three each. The remaining two went to the ANC.

Fairly high percentage polls were recorded, varying from 71.3 per cent in Prince Albert to 58.9 per cent in Beaufort West.

Central Karroo, West Coast and Winelands were apparently the only rural districts that began counting immediately after close of polls on Wednesday [29 May] night. Counting has also been going on through the night in the northern metro substructure, under which Milnerton and Marconi Beam fall.

The other five substructures will start counting only Thursday morning, and most results are expected only late Thursday night or early Friday morning.

South Africa: Unions Warn Government, Business on Asset Privatization*MB2905201096 Johannesburg SABC 3 Television
Network in English 1800 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The issue of state assets has again been raised. Organized labor has warned the government not to move away from the National Framework Agreement signed in January. At a news conference in Johannesburg today, COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] also called on business to stay out of the privatization debate.

[Begin recording] [SABC reporter Snuki Zikalala] Four months ago labor and the government signed the National Framework Agreement, a document which defined the process of negotiations between the two parties on the restructuring of state assets. This happened after Deputy President Thabo Mbeki announced in December government's intention to privatize Sun Air, Transkei Airways, and to partially privatize South African Airways and Telkom [Telecommunications Corporation]. The government said it would provide 3 million rands for the establishment of the National Framework Agreement. So far, the unions have only been allocated about 700,000 rands to employ six researchers for a period of nine months. At today's media briefing, Vusi Nhlapo, labor convener, said renewed calls for privatization of state-owned companies were a concern to the unions.

[Nhlapo] We endorse the position of COSATU on the need to avoid a slinging match between ourselves and the ANC on the issue of privatization. We are, however, disappointed by the fact that, despite this move from the federation, continued calls have emerged from some quarters in the ANC.

[Zikalala] An alliance meeting is to be held on Friday [31 May] to redefine the parties' positions on restructuring. Meanwhile, final negotiations between labor, government, and business at Nedlac [National Economic Development and Labor Council] on the government's

green paper on employment standards have produced no results. After five meetings, the three parties failed to reach a consensus on the regulation of Sunday work, a premium for night shift, and on a maternity leave of four months. Nedlac's labor market chamber, which is meeting tomorrow, is expected to recommend that the government's employment standards proposals be taken to Cabinet and debated in Parliament. [end recording]

South Africa: Statistics Show 3.3% GDP Growth Rate

*MB3005102196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1007 GMT 30 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg May 30 SAPA — An increase in agricultural growth of 82.3 percent in the first quarter of this year pushed the annualised GDP rate to 3.3 percent, while growth in the other sectors declined, Central Statistical Services [CSS] in Pretoria said on Thursday [30 May].

Growth in the four quarters last year was 1.7 percent, 2.2 percent, 3.0 percent and 2.7 percent. "The high increase in agriculture (at factor prices) is however largely a recovery from the decline in 1995."

CSS said the growth rate in six of the other 11 sectors was lower in the first quarter of 1996 than than the average growth last year. "To a certain extent, this points to a slowdown in economic activities in the first quarter of 1996."

The seasonally adjusted real GDP of the non-agricultural sector increased by an annualised growth of only 0.6 percent following increases of 1.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 1995 and 2.0 percent for the year. As against a growth of 0.8 percent in secondary industries in the first quarter (compared to -1.5 percent in the previous quarter), tertiary industries showed an increase of only 0.5 percent which was much lower than the 4.0 percent in the previous quarter. Manufacturing showed no growth for the first quarter, compared to -2.8 percent for the previous quarter.

South Africa: De Beers Diamond Market Dominance Reportedly 'Under Threat'

*MB3005091096 Johannesburg SABC 1 Television
Network in English 2000 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The world diamond market is facing unprecedented uncertainty with De Beers' dominance under threat. Major producers, unhappy with their treatment from the De Beers cartel, are threatening

to market their diamonds themselves. They also refuse to sign a new agreement with the Central Selling Organization [CSO]. The existing contracts run out at the end of June. The BBC reports on the world's largest producer, the Argyle Diamond Mine, in Australia.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified BBC correspondent] The Argyle diamond polishing workshop in Perth. Stones totalling 40 million carats are produced by the company each year. But in the face of such apparent wealth, all is not well. The company is understood to be deeply unhappy with the marketing arm of De Beers, the Central Selling Organization, which has traditionally controlled the world diamond price. The CSO needs to take notice. Argyle accounts for a third of the world's total production in terms of volume. This is the Argyle mine in a remote area of north-west Australia. The company won't comment on the details of its negotiations with the CSO, but the sticking point is the CSO's decision to defer the purchase to 15 percent of the diamonds coming out of the ground, restricting producers' incomes.

The Russians, too, are unhappy with the deal and have also not yet signed a new agreement with the CSO.

[ANZ McCaughan diamond analyst, Chris Sabin] The Russians, who are major producers, and sell approximately 26 percent of the CSO's sales to that body, are pushing for a greater direct access to the market themselves. Now they haven't formally signed that agreement, and the Russian election is due on June 16, and I suspect that the agreement may not be formally signed until after that election.

[Correspondent] Time is certainly running out. Existing agreements with the CSO expire at the end of June. The market is facing huge uncertainty. Diamond producers had been hoping for a 5 percent, or better annual increase in prices over the next 10 years, but that now seems unlikely in the short term at any rate. The real cause of all the problems is that these most precious of all stones are in fact in danger of becoming all too commonplace. The deferred purchase scheme, and increased production generally, have left an international stockpile threatening prices. Argyle have already experimented with marketing their premium products direct to retail customers. If they do indeed break away from the CSO, they are unlikely to start a price war that's not in their interests. Diamonds may still be forever, but analysts here are beginning to think that the De Beers cartel may not. [end recording]

South African Press Review for 28 May

MB2805135996

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Zimbabwe, Zambia Must Learn To Live With Competition — Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 28 May in a page-20 editorial comments on Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's censure of South Africa's trade policies in the southern African region, noting that "the root cause of the dissatisfaction is that South Africa exports far more to its Southern African neighbours than it imports from them." South Africa's neighbors contend that the competition is "unfair because several of South Africa's export industries are 'subsidised'." THE STAR points out that in 1994, Trevor Manuel, the then minister of trade and industry, "suggested to his Southern African colleagues at the annual World Bank/IMF meeting in Madrid that SA manufacturers were selling more in the region than their neighbours because they were more efficient, more productive and more competitive. Herein, perhaps, lies the answer. Just as South Africa is learning to withstand the cut-throat pressures of the global village, so should the likes of Zimbabwe and Zambia."

THE CITIZEN

'Racism-in-Reverse' in Government — The page-6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 22 May notes Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Posa's call for the "removal of all civil servants either appointed by the outgoing NP [National Party] members or from the NP." "In which country, we may ask, are civil servants dismissed when there is a change in government?" "It's the kind of witchhunt one might expect in an authoritarian country but not one that professes to be democratic." The editorial further notes the government's plan to cut 300,000 public service jobs within three years. "Let the ANC have no doubt about one thing — the more Whites it discards in the civil service, the armed forces and the police, the more land it reposses or expropriates, the more it denies Afrikaners their culture, language and schools, the greater the chances of the resistance that Pres Mandela fears. We prefer the voice of reason of Pres Mandela to the voice of division and racism-in-reverse of some members of his government."

BUSINESS DAY

S. Africa Held Back By Its Neighbors? — "International investors are already casting their votes on southern Africa, and the prospects are not bright judging by responses during this past week," begins a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 28

May. In Germany, businessmen were unequivocal that South Africa "had to get its own house in order before any real investment would be forthcoming." Although this region has "peculiar problems," investors "are not interested in hearing politicians repeat them ad nauseam while blaming economic decline on predecessor governments." Furthermore, "there may be well over 100-million people in our region, but they are mostly poor and will represent only feeble market potential outside South Africa for a great many years." Given this, "South Africans might well ask which is the more worthwhile, trying to develop the SADC [Southern African Development Community] or concentrating on promoting this country's own export sectors directed towards developed world markets." "South Africans might well ask if they risk being held back by their neighbours. If this country is to develop from its broadly unsophisticated industrial base it has to compete with the world's best and not be restricted to the pace of slower regional partners."

South African Press Review for 29 May

MB2905125996

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Organized Labor 'Almost Suffocating' ANC — Kaizer Nyatumba writes in his "One in Your Eye" column on page 16 of Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 29 May on the "increasingly fragile alliance between the ANC and COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] and between the ANC and the SACP [South African Communist Party]." Nyatumba notes that shortly after becoming president, Nelson Mandela told a COSATU congress in Johannesburg that the federation's members "should not be 'selfish' and demand higher salaries when there is an army of unemployed people in the country." This message "was most unpopular with COSATU." As another example of the "tension" between the ANC and COSATU Nyatumba points to the December "showdown between the Government and COSATU, over the Government's bold and welcome announcement to proceed with the privatisation of some state assets like Telkom [Telecommunications Corporation]." "If it is not careful, the ANC in Government will find itself held to ransom by its allies, notably the giant federation COSATU, and ANC ministers will have to keep looking over their shoulders to make sure their moves do not infuriate Shilowa and his colleagues. Sooner or later the ANC will have to break free from the almost suffocating clutches of organised labour."

BUSINESS DAY

Government's Economic 'Dithering' — Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 29 May in a page-10 editorial comments on COSATU's planned action against commercial banks for raising interest rates, saying COSATU and organizations like the South African Foundation that represent business "are for the present taking positions as pressure or lobby groups rather than as government's co-determination or social partners." "Government should realise and accept this. Everyone should understand that the result is a robust debate in a field essentially vacated by a government which is being tardy about specifying its plans for the future." BUSINESS DAY believes that COSATU's reaction to the interest rate increases "is not a crisis" but "government will create a crisis if its economic dithering continues."

SOWETAN

Government Urged To Lead in Economic Triangle — "When COSATU threatens to take on the banks because it is opposed to higher lending rates, it may be expressing a widely held view among a populace reeling under one economic blow after another," notes a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 29 May. But, if the federation is able through mass action "to force banks to back down, an equally important question will arise — how much foreign investment, crucial to economic growth and job creation, will flow into the country?" In view of this Labor Minister Mboweni's "impatience" with the lack of progress in forging a social pact between labor and business is understandable. "COSATU's and

business's increasingly confrontational approach, while both are claiming to act in the interests of the country and the well-being of its people, is doing nothing to increase confidence in our economy. It is time for the Government to lead the way."

BEELD

ANC Struggling With Economic Policy Issues — It is clear that for the first time since its policy conference in May 1992, the ANC is "struggling with its economic policy issues," notes a page-8 editorial in Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 28 May. In particular, the debate on the Constitution has caused "certain ideological issues to crystallize," and this has sparked off "extraordinary interest" here and abroad. The world and South Africa want to know: "Exactly how strongly is the ANC government committed to a market economy, and how valid is the perception that the ANC allows itself to be led by the nose by its trade union partner?" While in Germany, President Mandela "unambiguously" expressed his support for privatization, and did so again on his return to the country. Tokyo Sexwale too recently voiced his support at a South African Communist Party conference in Gauteng. Those ANC members who were "brought up on the movement's socialist rhetoric" must now be told that "the solution lies in exactly the opposite direction." South Africa has written itself a Constitution which "suits" the country's political and social circumstances, but as far as an economic policy framework was concerned, the government has "far less space to maneuver." What counts here are "the norms of the increasing integrated international markets, and not ideology."

Angola**Angola: Parliament Ratifies Nonproliferation Nuclear Arms Treaty***MB2905163396 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Angola has adhered to the Nonproliferation Nuclear Arms Treaty. Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura placed the bill in Parliament on 29 May, and of the 96 MP's present, only two abstained, and none voted against. [passage omitted]

Angola: German Priest Stands Trial for Distributing Pamphlets*MB2905170596 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The trial of German Catholic priest (Conrad Litcher) began in Luanda on 29 May. He is accused of having violated Article 27 of Law No. 22 of 1992, relating to the right of association and demonstration. The defendant testified today, and witnesses are scheduled to be heard on 30 May. The trial is being presided over by Judge Jose Augusto Marceneiro.

The Bearded Father, as (Conrad Litcher) is commonly known among his followers, allegedly wrote, published and distributed pamphlets, some of which he affixed around his car. The clerk of the court read the indictment:

[Begin unidentified clerk recording] The defendant, driving a VW vehicle, registration No. LBD 4656, metallic gray, affixed pamphlets and a poster around his vehicle, with the following captions: I want a fair salary. And you? What is the matter with salaries? Intimidation? No, thank you. Salaries are too little. Can you support your family with two [words indistinct]? I cannot. [end recording]

Botswana**Botswana: Economy Projected To Grow 6.8%***MB2805150096 Gaborone MMEGI in English 17-24 May 96 pp 14, 15*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The financial statements of the Bank of Botswana [BOB] reported substantial improvement in the bank so performance during 1995 as net income rose to P750 million [pula] compared to P161 million in 1994 says its annual report.

There was an improved financial outturn arising particularly from better bond market performance. As of result of this along with the share of the Bank's Revaluation Reserve to be distributed the Bank was able to trans-

fer to P1,051 million for its operations in 1995. The Revaluation Reserve comprises accumulated gains that reflect changes in the Pula value of assets held by the Bank arising from depreciation of the Pula against the currencies in which those assets are denominated (e.g. US dollars, British pounds, Deutsche marks etc). This compares with the P451 million the Bank distributed to Government for its operations in 1994. Assets of the Bank mostly international reserves increased from P12.1 billion at the end — of 1994 to P13.4 billion at the end of 1995.

The domestic economy has continued to expand modestly with real GDP growth of 3.1 percent in 1994/95 compared to 4.1 percent in 1993/94. The economy is forecast to grow in real terms by 4.9 percent in 1995/96 and 6.8 percent in 1996/97.

Formal sector employment increased from 231,200 in 1994 to 234,500 in 1995 an increase of 1.4 percent. Private sector employment continued to expand for the second straight year albeit modestly; only the construction sector registered job losses. With labour force growth estimated at over 3 percent per annum, unemployment has almost certainly increased above the 21 percent rate recorded in 1994.

A deficit of P270 million is expected for the Government budget in 1995/96 compared to the P196 million budget surplus recorded in 1994/95. An even larger deficit of P626 million is projected for the 1996/97 budget, approximately 3.8 percent of GDP. The deficit and the trend in expenditures raise concerns over the sustainability of the Government budget strategy.

The monetary aggregate M2 which comprises currency and deposits at commercial banks grew 11 percent during 1995 compared to 4.5 percent in 1994 says the annual report of the Bank of Botswana.

The more broadly defined money supply M3 which includes M2 plus Bank of Botswana Certificates (BOBCs) held by the non-bank private sector grew by 31 percent in 1995 but this was mainly due to increased sales of certificates during the year with their total outstanding value in the hands of the non-bank private sector increasing by P605 million to absorb the excess liquidity in the financial system.

Commercial bank credit to the private sector contracted by 10.2 percent in real terms over the year but this marked two very divergent trends: lending to households adjusted for inflation rose by 10.4 percent while this was offset by a 17.2 percent real contraction in credit to the business sector.

While the growth in the monetary aggregates is consistent with monetary stability and sustainable expansion in

real output the Bank is increasingly concerned about the growth of commercial bank credit to households which have become significant dis savers in the financial system.

The report says the intermediate monetary policy target of positive real rates of interest comparable to those in international financial markets was pursued with the bank rate (i.e. the interest rate the BOB charges for lending in commercial banks) and the yield on certificates rising in February 1995 as the rate of inflation began to rise early in the year. The bank rate was subsequently lowered to 13.5 percent in September and 13 percent in December as inflationary pressures appeared to ease.

Both exports and imports increased by 10 percent in 1995 helping to produce another balance of payments surplus which together with improved investment income mainly from the central bank boosted foreign exchange reserves to P13.25 billion — providing almost 25 months of cover for imports of goods and services.

The 1995 Annual Report is concerned with the issue of growth with equity. This theme has been chosen because increasing concern has arisen in recent years over Botswana's strategies for social and economic development, the extent of their success and the appropriateness of those strategies for the future. The fundamental strategy of re-investing the returns from the mineral developments into productive assets that could sustain income generating opportunities throughout the rest of the economy well into the future has not been fully appreciated by many other people who have high and/or rising aspirations beyond that which the strategy has achieved, or could probably ever achieve. Some people feel the strategy has not been successful in achieving National Development Plan goals and objectives of Rapid Growth, Sustained Development, Economic Independence and Social Justice, while others feel it is no longer a suitable strategy for the future. The Annual Report seeks to enhance public understanding of available data concerning Botswana's growth experience and the challenges facing the country.

Since 1974/75, real GDP growth, excluding mineral rents, has averaged 8.5 percent per annum. In the period from 1974/75 to 1984/85, GDP (less mineral rents) growth was 9.4 percent per, annum, while for the period 1984/85 to 1994/95 the growth was 7.6 percent per annum. Much of that difference is attributable to a decline in total factor productivity growth. GDP could have been much higher, as much as 40 percent higher, if total factor productivity growth had not decreased. Future growth and improvements in standards of living will require substantial improvements in productivity.

In a dynamic market economy, the key to social justice lies in all individuals having access to economic opportunities, and for those who are not successful having additional opportunities to try again or establishing a safety net for those who cannot participate in market-oriented income generating activities.

Analysis of household income and expenditure survey data shows the distribution of income has improved in Botswana from 1974 to 1994, most notably in rural areas. Growth in per capita incomes and an improved income distribution mean a substantial portion of the population has moved out of poverty. Compared to many other developing countries, Botswana has made significant progress in improving standards of living of the poor, of rural dwellers and females; but much remains to be done.

Employment growth outside agriculture has been very rapid since 1964, approximately 9.7 percent per annum. However agricultural employment has fallen as the population has moved out of mainly subsistence agriculture to more productive and better paying work in the formal sector. More employment growth is needed to absorb those still in subsistence agriculture, as well as to absorb the large number of those now unemployed — approximately 21 percent of the labour force in 1994. Growth of productive employment opportunities is the key to equity and social justice in Botswana.

In order to achieved sustained growth in jobs and incomes, Government must play its traditional economic roles of setting the legal, fiscal and monetary framework within which all private sector activities take place, maintaining macro-economic stability, correcting for market failures, providing public goods and services, and promoting social justice through redistributive measures and social safety nets. And, it must do those things in an increasingly efficient manner that is supportive of private sector development.

The 1995 Bank of Botswana Annual Report is available from the central bank offices at a price of P10 per copy.

Botswana: Hyundai To Invest P180 Million in Factory

MB2805150996 Gaborone BOTSWANA MMEGI in English 17-24 May 96 pp 9, 13

[Report by Sam Kamphodza]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Botswana's large scale motor assembler Hyundai Motor Distributors is to invest P180 million [pula] in the new complete knocked down (CKD) factory to be build in Gaborone, says company's co-founder Billy Rautenbach.

The facility was christened on Tuesday [14 May] at the ground-breaking ceremony marked with pomp and fanfare — paving the way for construction to begin next month.

Rautenbach said the new Hyundai CKD represented a capital investment of P180 million and funds for the project will be primarily drawn from the company's own resources and some will be sourced from local financial institutions.

Botswana Development Corporation, investment arm of the government, could also be asked to prop up if needs arise, but Rautenbach said this was not being envisaged in the initial stages of the project.

"We will fund the project ourselves but some of it will be sourced from local financial institutions. BDC have indicated that they would be interested to come in if we asked them but I don't think we will involve them at an early stage of the project," said Rautenbach who co-founded the company with Francois Nissan in 1992.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony, vice president of Hyundai parent company in South Korea HW Baik, expressed Hyundai's intent to be part of the economic growth of Botswana and, in fact the entire Southern African region.

"In conjunction with our local partner, Hyundai Motor Distributors, we are planning to initially produce 3,000 cars a month at the new facility," Baik said.

"Once the annual production reaches 50,000 units, it will become viable to establish an automobile component manufacturing industry in Botswana."

The factory's 20 hectare site, situated along Western Bypass/Magochanyama Road in Block 3, will house full vehicle assembly and related facilities such as warehousing, a body shop, paint shop, assembly line, trim shop, an outdoor test track, a container park and holding/dispatch facilities. The contemporary design will incorporate the various elements in a wheel-like style around a central administrative hub.

The complex is expected to be completed within the relatively short period of 18 to 24 months, utilising fast track construction methods, the company said.

The factory's optimum volume will be in the region of 50,000 units a year, and will play a huge role in the creation of employment in the region. In the short term, up to 500 people will be active on-site at the height of the construction and technical installation processes. Looking at the longer term, Hyundai Motor Distributors envisages that up to 1,000 people will be employed at the new plant by the time production runs at full capacity.

A project team from the South Korean Hyundai Motor Company will be closely involved in the initial stages of the operation, including the design, construction, and the installation of equipment. They will work closely with the local project team.

Hyunda Motor Company forms part of the wider Hyundai business group of Korea, which turns over P210 billion a year. The group is internationally active in engineering and construction, shipbuilding, electronics, financing petrochemicals, aerospace, steel and machinery.

Madagascar

Madagascar: President Zafy Appoints New Prime Minister

*EA2805190296 Antananarivo Television Nationale
Malagasy Network in Malagasy
1600 GMT 28 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Norbert Ratsirahonana was appointed prime minister by the president of the Republic this evening. [passage omitted] Here is President Albert Zafy's statement announcing the decree appointing the new prime minister, Norbert Ratsirahonana:

[Begin Zafy recording] Third Republic, third prime minister: According to Presidential Decree No. 96-382 of Tuesday, 28 May 1996, Mr. Norbert Ratsirahonana has been appointed prime minister, head of the government.

The man does not fear threats and, moreover, nobody will dare direct threats at him. He is a man who is ready and who has the courage to stand for what is right and fair. He is not a political party man.

Mr. Norbert Ratsirahonana is therefore the one who will hold consultations aimed at forming the new government. I call on those who want to consult him to get in touch with him. [end recording]

Madagascar: New Premier Outlines Economic Priorities

*LD2905120196 Paris Radio France International
in French 0630 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Madagascar has had a new prime minister since yesterday. He is Norbert Ratsirahonana, president of the Malagasy High Constitutional Court. He is 58 and comes from the high plateau of Antananarivo, on the island.

Norbert Ratsirahonana is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris. He replaces Emmanuel Rakotovahiny, who resigned after a vote of no

confidence in his government at the National Assembly on 17 May.

It seems the new prime minister is going to have a difficult task. He will have to give a new boost to talks with international financial organizations. These talks are somewhat on hold because of the political, social, and economic crises Madagascar has been facing. Agreements between the island and the International Monetary Fund have been suspended for five years now. Therefore, that is one of Norbert Ratsirahonana's priorities:

[Begin recording] [Ratsirahonana] One of the priorities of the government-to-be is to hold negotiations with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. They have requested various measures, including the restoration of the state of law, an independent judiciary, and the ban on illegal financing. I believe I am prepared to take these measures and to implement them.

[Lorho] Would you agree if you were told that your government, your government-to-be, is a last chance government for Madagascar?

[Ratsirahonana] That is what a section of public opinion believes, and they may be right. In any case, the aim is to hold successful negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank since the failure of these negotiations might increase the economic and financial difficulties of the Malagasy people — they may even be fatal. [end recording]

Chantal Lorho conducted this interview.

The new Malagasy prime minister is expected to announce the formation of a national union government at the end of this week.

Mozambique

Mozambique: Government Preparing To 'Stamp Out' Disorder in Maringue

MB2905192696 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1800 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Mozambican Government is preparing to stamp out disorder in the central district of Maringue, the stronghold of the former rebel Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] movement, now the main opposition party in Parliament, reports today's edition of the Maputo daily NOTICIAS. The minister of state administration, Alfredo Gamito, who is on a working visit to Maringue, told NOTICIAS the government might be forced to ask the police to restore law and order in Maringue if disorder continues, so that the government's five-year program can be implemented.

The democratically elected government of President Joaquim Chissano has had enormous difficulties in improving [words indistinct]. Earlier this month, most of the few civil servants in Maringue were thrown out of the district by Renamo. Mr. Gamito and two other government officials, the minister in the presidency for parliamentary affairs, Francisco Madeira, and Sofala Governor Felisberto Tomas [?nationally] took the opportunity offered by a parliamentary visit to investigate live what is going on in Maringue.

Renamo has angrily criticized the government for infiltrating the parliamentary delegation. Head of Renamo's parliamentary group, Raul Domingos, pulled out from this delegation, stating the visit had been planned purely parliamentary and not [words indistinct]. He accused the chairman of the Mozambican Parliament, Eduardo Mulembwe, who is the head of the delegation, of conspiring with the government.

Mozambique: Frelimo Committee Call Threatens Maputo Corridor Project

MB2305131996 Johannesburg THE STAR (BUSINESS REPORT Supplement) in English 23 May 96 p 1

[Report by Ross Herbert]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Maputo — If the central committee of Mozambique's governing party has its way, further donor funding to the Maputo corridor project will be impossible.

Several other key projects of interest to South Africans could also be at risk, donors said. Frelimo's central committee issued a statement after a three-day meeting last week, calling for a reversal of government policy.

The state should "safeguard its domination and decisive power in strategic companies, particularly the banking sector, in insurance, in air transport, in ports and railways, in energy, water and communications", the committee said.

Frelimo holds the country's presidency and most of the seats in the national assembly. The government has declared its intention to privatise the two largest state-owned banks. Privatisation of the state water companies and the national airline are also considered likely.

Western diplomats were not sure whether the declaration was merely a negotiating ploy or a sign of deepening splits in the party.

The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and a variety of donor countries that have poured several hundred million dollars into upgrades of Mozambique's port and railroads, have said they would put no further funding into Maputo harbour and its connecting rail

lines as long as both remained under the control of Caminhos de Ferro de Mocambique, the Mozambique port and railroads company.

Mozambique: Islamic Bank Finances Health, Education Projects

MB2805191996 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Education and health accords were signed in Maputo on 28 May by government and the Islamic Development Bank. The bank will finance the construction of 35 health posts in Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa Provinces to the tune of \$3 million. Mozambique will contribute \$500,000 toward the project. The bank has donated about \$277,000 toward technical assistance in education. [passage omitted]

Namibia

Namibia: Several Agreements Reached With Russian Diamond Company

MB2905085296 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 23 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Namibian Mineral Corporation (Namco) has reached several agreements with Aream Mining, which handles the interests of the Russian company Almaz Rossii-Sakha's (ARS) in Namibia. ARS is the world's second biggest diamond producer and handles 98 percent of Russia's diamond production.

A feasibility study, on the establishment of a diamond cutting and polishing factory in Namibia, will be undertaken while Russian expertise is made available to Namibia. At present Namibia imposes a 10 percent levy on profits on the export of uncut diamonds, but not on the export of polished stones.

A joint exploration company will expand the search for kimberlite along the Namibian coast. As part of the agreement a second joint company will undertake an evaluation of advanced mineral projects in Russia.

Namco Chief Executive Alistair Holberton said that the agreements with ARS are an important step for development, especially since Namibia will gain a great deal of expertise.

Swaziland

Swaziland: South Africa's Phosa Warns Against Pursuing Border Adjustment

MB3005081796 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 30 May 96 pp 1, 32

[Report by Musa Ndlangamandla]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mbabane — Mpumalanga Premier Matthew Phosa warns that if Swaziland continues to pursue the border adjustment issue, it might cause unnecessary hostilities.

Phosa said it is important that the two countries define their relationship in terms of enhanced economic co-operation. He was speaking in an interview on Wednesday (29 May) night during a cocktail party held in his honour at the residence of the South African High Commissioner. "A decision was taken at cabinet level that the colonial boundaries should be respected and not tampered with considering that to do so would spark a lot of conflict. The resolution was taken by the cabinet in South Africa on line with the Lusaka Manifesto. It was felt that to pursue the border adjustment issue would be unfortunate as such has the potential of causing conflict," Phosa said.

He noted that there would be more good than harm if the two countries would concentrate their efforts on economic empowerment of their peoples.

Swaziland has been pursuing the issue of border adjustment since independence. The land that is claimed are portions of the lush Mpumalanga and Ngwavuma regions. Intensive talks have been held between His Majesty King Mswati III and authorities of South Africa on the land issue.

Mr Phosa was in the country at the invitation of the Economic Association of Swaziland (ECAS) and the Swaziland Chamber of Commerce.

Swaziland: African Development Bank Reinstates Line of Credit

MB2905084996 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 29 May 96 p 7

[Report by Phesheya Vilakati]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The E20 million [emalangeni] line of credit to assist small and medium scale farmers which was suspended by the African Development Bank (ADB) because of certain irregularities at the Swazi Bank will now be re-instated.

This follows successful negotiations between the Minister for Finance Dr Derek von Wissell and the ADB

during a meeting of the Board of Governors of the ADB and the African Development Fund (ADF) at Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Finance Mrs Musa Fakudze yesterday said some terms and conditions of the line of credit have not been finalised. "Certain terms and conditions of the original line of credit will be renegotiated," she said.

The line of credit was suspended by the ADB following irregularities at the Swazi Bank which lead to a restructuring study on the bank. The Swazi Bank are the facilitators of the line of credit.

Senate expressed fear earlier that the line of credit would be eventually cancelled by the ADB. Senator Mike Temple during a Senate session: "We ask the Minister for Finance to give us (Senators) surety that the line of credit will not be cancelled."

On the other hand, Minister von Wissell clinched a loan of about E121 million (UA 29M) for financing the construction of the Luyengo/Sicunusa and the Mbabane Ngwenya roads.

Minister von Wissell was accompanied by Mrs Fakudze, the Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development Ephraem Hlophe, and the Principal Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Finance Mrs S. Mohammed.

Others were: Chief Roads Engineer at the Ministry of Works and Construction T. Tshabalala, Planning Officers at the Ministries of Economic Planning & Development and Transport & Communications, Ms N. Dlamini and Ms C. Magongo, respectively.

Swaziland: King Mswati Signs 1996/97 Appropriation Bill

MB3005080296 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 30 May 96 p 32

[Report by Nhlanhla Zwane]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mbabane — His Majesty the King has signed the 1996-97 Appropriation Bill. The Appropriated amount for this year's budget totals E1.8 billion.

This was disclosed by the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Transport Musa Fakudze, yesterday. She said E1.3 billion is for the Recurrent Budget and E540 million for the capital programme.

She said this means that the ministries can start full swing with this year's programme. The appropriated deficit is estimated at E142 million and revenue and grants total about E1.7 billion.

Swaziland: Maputo Development Corridor To Get 'Top' Government Priority

MB2905185396 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for economic planning and development, Mr. Themba Masuku, has said His Majesty's government has given the Maputo Development Corridor and the National Development Strategy, the top most priority in its ministry and on its economic development agenda. Reacting to yesterday's address by Mpumalanga Premier Matthew Phosa to the business community at the Spa Convention Center, Minister Masuku said that together with Premier Phosa, South African transport minister, Marc Maharaj, and Mozambican transport minister, Paulo Muxanga, they have gone a long way in establishing a mechanism to look at the process of identifying joint projects that will lead to the economic development of the subregion, and eventually the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region.

He said in doing all this, they have to consider many things such as the Abuja Treaty that establishes African economic community, such as the SADC, the East African Community, the Economic Community of West African states and many others. He said the development of the Maputo project also has to take into cognizance existing region protocol and international protocols such as 1968 Helsinki rules on the use of international waters, and SADC protocols on trade and shared water sources. He said it is vital, therefore, that a multi-sectoral team is put in place to facilitate the process. He said the multi-sectoral technical team will be announced soon, and will reflect the nature of this economic development.

Swaziland: Mpumalanga Premier Discusses Need for Foreign Investment

MB2805171296 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1632 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MBABANE May 28 SAPA — The southern African region needed to create an international perception of being a safe haven for foreign investment, Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa said on Tuesday [28 May].

Addressing the Swaziland Chamber of Commerce in Mbabane, Phosa said southern Africa could only succeed as a new area of economic growth if it could create jobs and attract foreign investors. "We have to change the perception of the world that Africa is a barren desert of Aids, hunger, genocide and corruption," he said.

This "extremely negative perception" did not contribute towards the new culture of co-operation. "The southern

African region needs to become the lion of Africa. We can only succeed if the broader vision is translated into projects, jobs, opportunities to the business sector and attracting foreign investors to the region," he said. "In order to ensure economic growth, it is of critical importance that the world perceives us as a safe local investment."

Imperatives for attracting foreign investors included a stable and productive workforce, high standards of business ethics, competitiveness and lower crime levels. "We must realise that none of the efforts in the development of human resources will be successful without the development of sound work ethics, cultures and values."

Referring to the planned Maputo development corridor linking Mpumalanga and Mozambique, he said the key to the project was the development of Maputo harbour as an outlet for South African exports. Phosa said during a recent visit to Britain he had gained the impression that the project had support from abroad on condition it created a substantial number of jobs on both sides of the border. He said the British government also agreed that the development of Maputo harbour held the key to the whole initiative.

Swaziland: Inflation Rate for April Rises to 7.5%

MB3005081696 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 30 May 96 p 10

[Report by Gugu Mpapane]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mbabane — The inflation rate is suddenly taking a rising trend following a steady decline since February, 1995. Inflation figures for April this year are: 8.7 percent for the low income group, 7.7 percent for the middle and high income groups and the overall average of 7.5 percent for all groups.

According to Reuben Simelane of the Central Statistical Office the increase in the rate of inflation has caught them by surprise because all along, inflation was on a definite downward trend.

Swaziland: Gross Official Reserves Increase by 21.7%

MB3005073096 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 30 May 96 p 12

[Report by Sifiso Simelane]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gross official reserves during the month ended last month amounted to E1,146.2 million (emalangen), up 21.7 percent and 20.2 percent from the previous month and year, respectively. This is according to the Central Bank of Swaziland monthly statistical release for April.

The special drawing reserve (SDR) equivalent of the reserves also increased though a lower rates of 13.2 percent and 9.2 percent over the same period. [sentence as published]

Net credit to government reached E894.1 million, depicting an increase of 29.7 percent from the month before, in line with the movement in net foreign assets.

Over the year, growth in government net creditor position was 54.3 percent. Loans and advances to the private sector fell by 1.6 percent over the month but rose by 1.1 over the year.

Total stock of money held with the banking system fell marginally by 0.5 percent during the month to reach E1,184.8 million.

A notable decline was in other interest bearing (time) deposits which fell from E23.8 million to E594.8 million.

Savings deposits, however rose negligibly to E253 million bringing quasi money to E847.9 million.

Narrowly defined money supply increased by 5.6 percent to E336.9 million.

Both Emalangen outside banks and demand deposits respectively increased by E0.6 million and E17.3 million to reach E83.4 million and E253.6 million.

Compared annually, total monetary liabilities fell by 3 percent.

Domestic liquid assets fell by 26.1 percent and 27.8 percent over the previous month and year, respectively to close at E255.8 million.

As a result, the liquidity month and year, respectively to close at E2,155.8 million. As a result, the liquidity ratio fell by 7.7 percentage points over the month to reach 21.7 percent.

Zambia

Zambia: Chiluba Reshuffles Cabinet Ministers

MB2905134796 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1115 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chiluba has with immediate effect appointed Health Minister Michael Sata minister without portfolio, a position which has been vacant for a long time. Deputy Health Minister Katele Kalumba is the new health minister. The president has also elevated Commerce, Trade and Industry Deputy Minister (Siamukayungu Siamunjaye) to head

the ministry. Youths, Sports and Child Minister Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Kafumukache has been transferred to Works and Supply in the same capacity. Education Deputy Minister Samuel Miyanda will now be minister for youth, sports, and child development. No demotions have been effected. The new changes and appointments fill up the vacancies left by two ministers who recently resigned from their government positions.

Zambia: Vice President—Bill Not To Apply to Assembly Candidates

MB3005101696 (Internet) ZAMBIA TODAY
in English 29 May 96

[Item originally published by ZANA on 29 May: "Vice President Miyanda Clarifies Position"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vice President Godfrey Miyanda today described as "pure fabrications" a POST newspaper story which quoted him as having said that parliamentary candidates will be affected by the citizenship clause in the new Republican constitution.

Speaking on the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation programme, "Tell the nation", this morning, Brigadier-General, retired, Miyanda said he never at any one time in parliament referred to such a qualification for a parliamentary aspirant.

He said he was contemplating taking legal action against the paper for such a misleading article.

On the "Black Mamba" terror group and its threats, Gen. Miyanda said at the moment government was merely studying the situation and that it would not declare a state of emergency, saying the situation will be contained soon. He, however, added that if the situation worsened a State of Emergency could be declared.

Gen. Miyanda further dismissed claims by some opposition parties that President Chiluba was from Zaire, saying the president is sure of himself and that was why he signed the Constitution which bars people of foreign parentage from contesting the Presidency knowing full well that it will not create any problems for him.

He said there would be an arrangement of scrutinising future presidential aspirants before elections so that the unqualified could be weeded out.

Zambia: MMD, Opposition Parties Hold Meeting in Lusaka

MB2905195896 Lusaka Zambia National
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1800 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] and opposition parties met

in Lusaka today to resolve to work together in order to enhance democracy in the country. This was disclosed by Zambia Independent Monitoring Team, ZIMT, President Alfred Zulu, whose organization arranged the consultative meeting at the Lusaka Hotel. Mr. Zulu said that political parties also agreed on the need to have an independent electoral system in the country.

Speaking at the same function, MMD Lusaka Province chairman Mr. Christopher Kawunga appealed to all political parties to (?improve) their language of peace for a better Zambia. And junior chairman for Lusaka Province Mr. Peter Lushika, who spoke at the same occasion, urged political leaders to play their role in ensuring a clean political campaign in this year's parliamentary and general elections.

Zambia: Police Summon Opposition Leader for Questioning

MB3005101896 Lusaka THE POST in English
30 May 96

[Report by Sundie Sinkala: "Police Seek Opposition Leader Dean Mung'omba" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zambia Democratic Congress (ZDC) president Dean Mung'omba was yesterday summoned to police force headquarters for questioning.

The subject of the police interview was not, however, made known to the ZDC president. But ZDC general secretary, Derrick Chitala, yesterday said that his party will not allow their president to report to police headquarters for questioning. "ZDC will not tolerate and be part of the MMD's [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] insanity," Chitala warned in an interview yesterday.

Speaking after receiving a call out message from a constable Shelly Shula, asking him to 'release' his president, Chitala said "the summons was another attempt by the MMD government to intimidate Mung'omba and ZDC members".

"This is the second time they are summoning our president simply to harass him," Chitala carped. "We therefore refuse and maintain that he will not go there." Chitala noted that the MMD government had unfortunately declared war on all citizens who appear to disagree with their misrule.

He suspected that Mung'omba had been called by the police for the address he made to his supporters outside the Supreme Court building after their application to block the assenting of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill by President Chiluba was dismissed by the Supreme Court on Tuesday [28 May].

But Chitala challenged the police to first summon President Chiluba, whose party cadres accompanied by Lusaka Province chairman Christopher Chawinga, led an illegal procession to State House. "If they want to summon our president because of his speech to the members at Supreme Court, then they should first start with Chiluba before they come to us," Chitala challenged.

Chitala said his party was committed to ensuring that they stop all attempts meant to make Zambians start fighting amongst each other. "We shall do it with all means, and by whatever means, possible," Chitala declared. "ZDC will not obey unjust laws by the MMD."

Zambia: Police Increase Reward for Information on 'Black Mamba'

MB2905065496 Lusaka THE POST in English
29 May 96

[Report by Reuben Phiri; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police have increased the reward for any information that will lead to the arrest of Black Mamba members from K2 million [kwacha] to K10 million. The Black Mamba a fortnight ago claimed responsibility for a bomb blast that caused damage to the State House perimeter wall.

Last week the group caused panic at Lusaka's Hotel Intercontinental when they phoned that a bomb had been planted in the premises.

Ndhlovu said at a press briefing in Lusaka yesterday that police had made headway in their investigations. "We have certain information which I cannot give you and the raising of the reward is meant to involve the public in gathering more information that will lead to the arrest and subsequent prosecution of the group," Ndlovu said. "We are mindful that the Black Mamba are people who live amongst the community."

Zambia: Government Accepts Privatization of Copper Mines

MB2805193096 Lusaka Zambia National
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1220 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government has finally accepted the official report on the privatization of ZCCM [Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines] which recommends a sale of the mining conglomerate in two stages. In a statement released in Lusaka today, Finance Minister Ronald Penza however said the privatization of ZCCM principal assets will be offered in packages comprising different mines. He said although a successful privatization should and would mean government com-

pletely withdrawing from management, government will still retain strong regulatory controls over the mining industry in Zambia within the context of existing legislation. He said the privatization timetable provides for the completion of stage one in the second half of 1997 and stage two by the first half of 1998. He further said the board of the Zambia Privatization Agency [ZPA] is expected to endorse the report soon and consequently effecting the [words indistinct] of ZCCM and all its subsidiaries to ZPA. The privatization of ZCCM will be carried out under the direct supervision of ZPA as required by the privatization act, while [words indistinct] will act as government advisers on the privatization.

Zambia: Government Details ZCCM Privatization Plans for Mines

MB2905074496 Lusaka THE POST in English
29 May 96

[Report by Chilombo Mwendela; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has finally confirmed the privatisation of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) giving details of how it will be carried out.

Finance minister Ronald Penza promised donors at the Consultative Meeting in Bournemouth last January that the government would quickly privatise the conglomerate in line with country's cooperating partners' demands for transparency and good governance.

Speaking at a press conference at the Ministry of Finance yesterday, Penza announced that cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the Rothschilds Report on the privatisation of ZCCM.

The privatisation will be conducted in two stages with the first being the unbundling of ZCCM's major interests into four packages. The second will be the sale of shares in the remaining entities of ZCCM to the public and other international investors. By mid-1997, the government hopes to have concluded negotiations of the first stage. The four packages are:

- the Konkola Deep Mine and Concentrator together with the Mfulira Mine, Concentrator and smelter and refinery;
- the Nchanga mines, tailings leach plant and concentrator together with the Nkana mines, concentrator, smelter and cobalt plant;
- the Baluba and Luanshya mines and concentrator, the decommissioned Luanshya smelter and Ndola refinery and the Chambishi cobalt plant; and

— ZCCM's electricity transmission, distribution and generation assets which have been owned and operated by ZCCM over the years.

The first package comprising the Konkola Deep Mine has been the subject of negotiations between ZCCM and the government on the one hand, and also of negotiations between the consortium led by Anglo American Corporation and the government over the past two years.

Penza confirmed that talks with Anglo American are leading to an agreement for the transfer of majority interest in Konkola Deep to the Consortium. The Consortium is in turn to commit itself to finance the development of the Konkola Deep Mining Project.

In the second stage of the privatisation, ZCCM is to remain a single holding company with minority shares in the packaged interests. However, even these minority shares may all be off-loaded onto the market by 1998 for the public and any other interested investors. The packages will be negotiated by the Zambia Privatisation Agency.

ZCCM's other assets including schools, hospitals, and non-mining subsidiaries have all been recommended for private ownership.

And on the resolution of ZCCM's formidable debt burden, Penza revealed that the debt stock would be covered in the negotiation over the packages. "Where, for example, government was supposed to own 80 per cent, it might only remain with 20 per cent," he said.

He also confirmed that by 1997 ZCCM would have finished with its retrenchment exercise. "We will not leave the trimming of the workforce to the new owners," he said.

Zambia: EU Grants K15 Billion for Rehabilitation

MB2205140496 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1115 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Union, EU, has given Zambia over 15 billion kwacha for the rehabilitation of feeder roads and support of nongovernmental organizations, NGOs. Of this amount, 14 billion kwacha will be used to repair feeder roads on the Copperbelt and Central Province, while 172 million kwacha will be given to NGOs. The European Union hopes that up to 1,000 km of feeder roads in the Central and Copperbelt Provinces will be upgraded to facilitate smooth transportation of agricultural produce.

Signing on behalf of the European Union, head of the delegation Charles Brook said the money will be utilized

properly. On the NGO support facility, Mr. Brook said the initiative must be regarded as a guide phase which will encourage self-help projects.

Signing on behalf of government, National Commission for Development Planning, NCDP, Permanent Secretary Irene Kamanga, said the plans will promote decentralization in Zambia.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Analysts Comment on 'Insensitive' Cabinet Reshuffle

MB3005072996 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 16 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The appointment of a substantive minister of finance has been welcomed by all sectors but analysts say they would have preferred a more politically robust personality to take over the key ministry.

Former Minister of Trade and Commerce Herbert Murerwa was appointed Minister of Finance in a cosmetic cabinet reshuffle announced by President Mugabe last week. He had been acting minister of Finance since the death of his predecessor Ariston Chambati eight months ago.

Analysts said since ZANU [Zimbabwe African National Union] PF [Patriotic Front] tradition was that major decisions affecting the country were made in the party's politburo, Murerwa who is junior in the party would not significantly contribute to the decision making process as he was not part of this organ. "This would effectively make him ineffective," one analyst said.

University of Zimbabwe Economics Professor Tony Hawkins said he did not see much difference in the cabinet reshuffle. "It's policy that matters, not the personality," he said. This meant that if Murerwa was not part of the policy-making process, his influence would be limited and his role would only be to implement decisions.

Analysts said Murerwa was given the post mainly because there was no other person in the ZANU PF top ranks capable of leading the ministry.

The appointment of Nathan Shamuyarira to the other key ministry of trade and commerce was mainly because he is deemed to be the only minister capable of making decisions and standing by them they said.

"Whether you agree with him or not, at least he makes decisions, while most other ministers wait for the president to make decisions for them," another analyst said.

The public, local captain of industry and commerce and the international donor community expected the president to significantly cut down the size of his cabinet which at 36 was among the most bloated in the world.

"Mugabe's cabinet reshuffle is insensitive to the demands of Zimbabwe's economy. It is not clear how one can reduce public expenditure by increasing the number of ministers," one commentator said.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) denied Zimbabwe aid last year for failure to implement cost saving measures and general financial discipline in government. The two institutions are on record as demanding massive cuts in state spending which accounted for 40 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and forced a 15 percent budget deficit last financial year ended June 1995.

Meanwhile, the IMF has suspended all funding for the second phase of the economic structural adjustment programme. Mugabe had earlier told journalists that he did not want to be forced by the IMF into a rigid situation as happened in the first phase of economic reforms adding that the next phase would only be implemented if government agreed with the terms.

Zimbabwe: IMF Cancels \$1 Billion Economic Reform Support Package

MB2905180396 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 16 May 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cancelled a \$1 billion [Zimbabwean dollars] disbursement for Zimbabwe's economic reform programme due to missed targets and has ruled out any new funding negotiations until after the next budget in July, the FINANCIAL GAZETTE has established.

Jurgen Reitmaier, who heads the southern Africa department of the IMF from Washington DC, said yesterday in Harare that Zimbabwe no longer qualified for further financial support because it remained "off target" in reducing its budget deficit and continued to finance loss-making parastatals.

"There is nothing to release. The US\$100 (Z\$1 billion) has lapsed because the IMF programme expired in September 1995 before Zimbabwe could meet certain major targets," Reitmaier told the FINANCIAL GAZETTE in an exclusive interview.

"Zimbabwe now needs to make a fresh application which needs new negotiations. There are no negotiations now. We are here to help the government analyse the situation and advise on budget procedures," he said.

Reitmaier, who said the IMF welcomed President Mugabe's appointment of a substantive minister of finance, arrived in the country last Wednesday heading a five-member delegation. The team, which departs next week, is, among other tasks, advising the government on fiscal management.

"The government has taken our advice and you should expect some changes in the next budget," Reitmaier said. "New funding to Zimbabwe is subject to further negotiations and the initiative will have to come from the Zimbabwe government itself."

No one from the Ministry of Finance was willing to comment on Reitmaier's statements yesterday. But last week, the president told journalists in the capital his government would go it alone with its reform programme if the IMF pulled out. The government is currently working on the second phase of the reform programme.

In 1992, the IMF approved a US\$400 million (Z\$4 billion) loan facility to Zimbabwe to be disbursed in tranches over a three-year period. The IMF only released 75 percent of the amount, or \$3 billion, and \$1 billion is being held back.

Yesterday, Reitmaier said his organisation had withheld the \$1 billion mainly because the government was "off target in a number of areas initially agreed upon" in 1992.

"When the three-year programme expired in 1995, the IMF decided not to disburse the remaining US\$100 million (Z\$1 billion) because the (Zimbabwe) government's budget deficit was way above its target by a large margin. In fact, it was twice as large as intended," he said:

He added: "In addition, public enterprises (parastatals) made huge losses. We therefore could not request from our board a release of this money."

Reitmaier's team yesterday met the leadership of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), which has consistently advocated alternative economic strategies to the current IMF/World Bank-sponsored reform programme. Both the ZCTU and the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe have in the past campaigned for the suspension of the reform programme, arguing it had failed to deliver the promised returns in Zimbabwe and elsewhere because it was externally-brewed and unsuitable for implementation locally.

"The major reason for the programme's failure is its total reliance on market forces and its bias towards the formal sector at the expense of non-formal sector. That failure has led to higher levels of unemployment,

poverty and inequality," the ZCTU said. So far, 250,000 jobs have been lost and many companies have collapsed since the programme was introduced five years ago.

Under the first phase of the programme, Reitmaier said, the government had successfully opened up the foreign exchange market, decontrolled the domestic pricing system, and improved the financial sector, including simplifying investment rules and procedures.

"That is the only success point," he said. "There was progress in the structural policies but the financial policies have not improved. First, the government has to be interested in the IMF, then we come and discuss the modalities of such support."

Zimbabwe: Government Lifts Freeze on 700 Jobs
MB2905182796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1534 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE May 29 SAPA — The Zimbabwe government has unfrozen more than 700 posts to enhance efficiency in some departments, a deputy minister said in Parliament on Wednesday (29 May).

Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Deputy Minister Alois Mangwende said ministers would soon be able to arrange filling the posts, the news agency ZIANA reported.

He was responding to a question from Chitungwiza East MP Edward Njekesa, who queried the two to three month waiting period before applications for destitution allowances were approved.

Public Service Commission chairman Mariyawanda Nzuwah last week said government would be forced to increase its civil service after some 20,552 posts were abolished or frozen since 1991. Nzuwah said most of the country's service institutions like schools, hospitals and social welfare offices were acutely short-staffed, which reduced efficiency.

Njekesa also asked why monthly destitution allowances were only ZD50 (Zimbabwean dollars) (US\$) for adults and ZD20 (US\$2) for a child. Mangwende said he would during the budget discussion ask government to increase the allowances.

"The wish of the ministry is, if it could afford it, to up the figure," he said.

Zimbabwe: Official Announces Plan To 'Commercialize' State Roads

MB3005081896 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 16 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Transport and Energy is finalising legislative amendments that would lead to the commercialisation of state roads, the ministry's permanent secretary Paul Kodzwa has said.

Kodzwa said this week that an institutional study completed last year had recommended the restructuring of the Department of Roads into ZimRoad and the establishment of ZimFund.

Initially, the study suggested ZimRoad be structured primarily as a planning and monitoring agency without the capacity to carry out any work on itself. The new agency would contract out all work on road maintenance and new construction, the study recommended.

"After presentation of the study report, it was reviewed and it was decided to adopt a different approach to the setting up of ZimRoad," Kodzwa told the FINANCIAL GAZETTE. "The Department of State Roads was to be made an autonomous department of the ministry first."

He added: "After this, considerations would be made to turn the so-formed department into a commercialised entity divorced operationally from the parent ministry, with the capacity to carry out maintenance and some limited new construction of roads and bridges."

He said ZimFund would primarily be responsible for collection of road sector related charges and distributing them to relevant agencies such as the Department of State Roads, the district Development Fund and rural district councils.

He said all proposed changes were dependent on parliamentary approval of amendments to the relevant Act. He said his ministry was not in a position to project how many jobs would be affected by the commercialisation process.

The Department of Roads has already laid off a number of employees and some of them took early retirement packages. Much of its work is currently being contracted out, although the department now engages casual labour for maintenance work on new roads and bridges.

The department maintains a total of 19,000 km of state roads and has previously said it required about \$300 million to carry out its operations effectively. It was allocated \$150 million in the current financial year.

"It is also difficult to know how much money is involved to implement the whole programme since it is done in phases and involves other ministries," Kodzwa said.

Earlier this year, the government introduced a road user levy through fuel price hikes that was aimed at raising \$150 million annually for the maintenance of state roads. In the past 13 years, the government spent \$6 billion to rehabilitate a total of 17,000 km in state roads.

Zimbabwe: Inflation Rate 'Slowing Down' to 24.2% in Jun

MB3005082796 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE (TRADE AND INVESTMENT Supplement) in English 14 May 96 p T5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As pressure on food stuffs eases due to the expected bumper harvest this season, the inflation rate is expected to continue slowing down to be pegged at around 24.2 percent in June this year.

Zimbabwe Financial Holdings, in its quarterly guide to the economy, said the major obstacle to a sustained reduction in inflation was government's persistent recourse to the monetary banking sector to finance its high expenditure.

The year-on-year rate of inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) in January declined by 1.6 percentage points from 28 percent to 26.4 percent in February.

"The slide in the rate of inflation was largely due to a slowdown in the rate of growth in most components of the CPI," said the financial institution.

The index for drinks and tobacco registered the largest decline in its rate of growth, falling by 18.4 percentage points to 14.2 percent in February, this year.

Other significant decreases were recorded in the indices for clothing and footwear, furniture and household goods and transport and communications, down by 3.3, 2.1 and 1.4 percentage points to 6.8 percent, 21.1 percent and 16.7 percent respectively.

The rate of growth in the index for medical care fell marginally by 80 basis points to 6.4 percent and the recreation and entertainment index fell by 50 basis points to 21.6 percent, while the rate of change in the indices for rent, rates, fuel power and education remained unchanged at 28.4 percent and 14.7 percent respectively.

The only index to register an increase in its rate of growth was the food index which rose by 2.5 percentage points to 41.1 percent in February. "This was mainly due to the knock-on effects of the increase in beef prices by an average of 10 percent and the 3.7 percent increase in the prices of maize meal in the last quarter of 1995. In addition, there were continued significant price increases

for vegetables and fresh fruits in February, contributing to the rise in the food price index," said Finhold.

Zimbabwe: Labor Shortage Threatens Nation's Tea, Coffee Industry

MB3005102296 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1010 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chipinge May 30 SAPA — Zimbabwe's tea and coffee industry bordering Mozambique is threatened by an acute labour shortage because local pickers say pay and working conditions are bad. They reject jobs on the tea and coffee estates even though there are few jobs in the region.

ZIANA news agency says unless Mozambicans cross the border to pick tea and coffee in Zimbabwe, millions of dollars in foreign exchange from exports.

Problems in the industry started with the end of 16 years of civil war in neighbouring Mozambique in 1992. Most most of the migrant Mozambican workers, who had fled hostilities in their country, were sent back home.

A senior government official said the ZD200 fee for a temporary work permit for every migrant Mozambican labourer was to discourage commercial farmers from employing Mozambicans. The aim was to get them to improve working conditions in the estates to attract thousands of unemployed Zimbabweans.

Chipinge farmers association chairman Bruce Richter said the government was doing nothing to help the farmers. He felt there was nothing farmers could do to improve housing, and attributed this to droughts that ravaged the country in 1991/92 and 1994/95.

"The drought left us with a lot of bank overdrafts which we have to clear," he said. "A productive worker would be able to earn much more than the minimum wage and we are surprised at local people not wanting to work on the estates. In the last season pickers were paid ZD20 or ZD30 a day, which was higher than the minimum wage of ZD11.59 a day."

Manicaland provincial governor Kenneth Manyonda said: "Wages are not the only item the people are crying for. There are also other things such as housing and working hours."

Zimbabwe: Investment Center Approves \$1.78 Billion Projects

MB3005071996 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE (TRADE AND INVESTMENT Supplement) in English 16 May 96 p T8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Zimbabwe Investment Centre (ZIC) approved 296 projects worth \$1.78 billion

during the first 10 months of last year. ZIC said in its recent bulletin the projects were expected to create 7,924 jobs with annual export earnings around \$1.27 billion.

Although 74 more projects had been approved compared to the period under review, the total value of projects approved fell by \$881.9 million.

Of the total number of projects approved during the period under review, 129 were in the commercial sector, 89 in manufacturing and 43 in tourism.

The sector distribution maintained its pattern in comparison with the 1994 January to October period, where the commercial sector and manufacturing took the same position with 110 and 80 projects respectively.

ZIC said of the 296 projects, 66 were foreign-owned while 228 were joint ventures, while the remaining two were wholly locally owned.

South African projects approved topped the list at \$227.1 million, closely followed by South Korea with \$222.3 million. Projects from South Africa were spread over manufacturing, mining; agriculture, tourism and commercial sectors.

In terms of foreign exchange outlay, ZIC said the commercial sector accounted for \$418.3 million, manufacturing \$364.9 million and tourism \$59.7 million. This represented 36.77 percent, 32.07 percent and 5.25 percent respectively.

Zimbabwe: Commonwealth Corporation To Invest \$270 Million in 1996

MB2905170096 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 16 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) expects to invest about \$270 million [Zimbabwean dollars] this year alone in viable commercial projects.

Christopher Brain, local representative of the British-based development finance institution told the FINANCIAL GAZETTE this week several viable projects had been approved while potential ones were being considered.

He said approval had already been granted to set-up a venture capital company which would provide equity finance for the small to medium-size businesses.

Brain said approval had also been given to invest about \$250 million (US\$25 million) in the Commonwealth Private Investment Initiative, a fund that would cater for all African countries in the Commonwealth.

CDC recently said it would commit about \$38 million as its share capital in Zimbabwe's third venture capital

company, to be known as Takura Ventures (Pty) Ltd. The company is expected to be launched next August. It is hoped the total capital of the venture capital company would be between \$94 and \$150 million with financing from both local and international institutions. Takura Ventures would provide risk capital in amounts between \$2 million and \$15 million to companies in all sectors of the economy.

CDC will invest about \$240 million in the Commonwealth Africa Investment Fund because it had been appointed to manage this initiative, said Brian, adding that CDC is the lead investor and the Africa Fund would be based in Harare.

The CDC chief said other projects likely to be approved soon included an aquaculture project on Lake Kariba and a water supply scheme in Chinhoyi. Potential investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism and property development were also being investigated.

To date, the institution has invested over \$1.2 billion in the agricultural, industrial and tourism sectors, financial services and infrastructure such as power, water and housing.

The highest investment during this period went to agriculture, which received well over \$270 million. Of that amount, over \$230 million was in loans, while the balance was in the form of equity.

Zimbabwe: \$325 Million Loan To Help 'Ailing' Health Service

MB2305090896 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 9 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KFW, a Germany-based organisation, has granted a \$325 million (DM50 million) loan to the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare to help it revamp its ailing health delivery system, Minister of Health Timothy Stamps disclosed this week.

Stamps said the money would be used for children's wards at provincial hospitals around the country, he said. "The funds will go a long way towards augmenting our health delivery system, including the purchasing of new dental equipment, which has hit a bad patch," Stamps told THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE.

The money comes at a time when the country's public health delivery system is hitting the doldrums, precipitated by a massive budget cut and an increase in the number of people requiring the services.

Government hospitals around the country, as a result, have over the past few months been forced to implement massive budgetary cuts that have led to food and drug shortages.

The ministry was allocated \$1.4 billion in the 1995-96 fiscal year, which was far short of the \$3.8 billion Stamps had said was required to "normalise" the country's public health sector. He even described his ministry's allocation as insensitive to the Zimbabwean family.

The budgetary constraints were further worsened by the introduction last year of the stop-payment system which requires all government ministries and departments to spend money within their budget allocation during each financial year.

It was revealed last January that the health ministry had overspent by \$80 million its previous allocation and had hoped to borrow the money as an advance to be paid off in the following budget allocation.

The Treasury department initially refused to grant the advance, forcing the ministry into near collapse as it had run out of money to pay its creditors and finance essential services. The Treasury later acceded to the ministry's request for a \$100 million [words indistinct] to effectively check the spread of the fatal malaria epidemic, which claimed more than 1,000 lives this season alone and affected an additional 400,000 people.

He said he was scheduled to meet several officials in his meeting to discuss the matter, although he pointed out that problems of finance and transport in the ministry's malaria research unit had further handicapped efforts to deal with the malaria problem nationwide.

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: Minister Rejects AI's Accusations of Repression

*LD2905181796 Paris Radio France International
in French 0730 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] On to the subject of human rights in Cote d'Ivoire. In a document published yesterday, Amnesty International [AI] says that members of the opposition in Cote d'Ivoire are the target of systematic repression, notably since last September's presidential campaign. The Ivorian authorities disagree and are reacting. Christophe Boisbouvier reports:

[Boisbouvier] According to Amnesty International, the most serious fact is the imprisonment of more than 200 people who support the opposition, who were arrested last September. These 200 people challenged the decree of 20 September 1995, which prohibited all types of demonstration. Amnesty International spokesman Salvador Saguez:

[Begin Saguez recording] We are asking for several things, first, some of these people were sentenced in accordance with a law usually called the anti-rioter law, which permits the arrest and the sentencing of people who have called a demonstration, even if there is no proof of their individual responsibility. Therefore for all these people we are asking for their sentences to be revoked because the law is unfair.

For those who have not been sentenced we are asking that they be judged. There is no legal reason for so many people to be detained without trial. What worries us is that there does not seem to be any willingness on the part of the Ivorian authorities to judge these people. These people have been held in detention for months in difficult conditions, which are like those in all Ivorian prisons. So we are asking that they be brought to trial or released. [end recording]

[Boisbouvier] So, are some 200 people still being detained? Here is the answer of Ivorian Communications Minister Danielle Boni-Claverie:

[Begin recording] [Boni-Claverie] Listen, there could be 180, or 189, or 201. It is difficult for me to tell you exactly how many people are in detention. You have been told about members of the opposition, and really we believe that this description is totally inappropriate. Because, in fact, in most cases these are people who have committed common-law crimes. On the whole all the acts that they can be criticized for have to do with delinquency most of the time. The anti-rioter law also seems to be the object of some suspicion on the part of Amnesty International. The anti-rioter law, which has been promulgated, will apply to them. It has been

proven that inmates are guilty in the framework of this law.

[Boisbouvier] These people have already been detained without trial for nearly nine months. So will their situation change or will they remain in detention without trial for a very long time?

[Boni-Claverie] No, no-one is being held secretly because all those who have been indicted are being detained by the legal authorities. They are going to be tried normally according to our laws and our procedures, which I will remind you are inspired by the Napoleonic Code. [end recording]

[Boisbouvier] Another controversial subject is the detention in prison of several tens of [?Bete] villagers from the region of Gagnoa, who were arrested in October 1995, as well as the conditions of detention of about 40 students who were arrested and detained for several months last year. According to Amnesty International some of them were held secretly and tortured. According to the government, secret detention is an inappropriate expression and torture a scandalous word.

Guinea

Guinea: Government Reacts to Killing of Guineans by Liberian Rebels

*AB2905214496 Paris AFP in French
1922 GMT 29 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Conakry, 29 May (AFP) — Two Guineans were killed in Bounama locality, in the extreme southeast of Guinea, on 23 May, by "uncontrolled" members of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), the GUINEAN PRESS AGENCY [AGP] reported today. According to AGP, the two victims were ordered by a group of four NPFL rebels to help them carry a power-driven pump stolen from a diamond mine in Guinea to their base on Liberian territory. When they refused, the rebels opened fire killing them on the spot. The prefect of Nzerekore (about 1,000 km southeast of Conakry) told AGP that rebel chief Charles Taylor has deplored the act, describing it as a "provocation," and has had the four "uncontrolled elements" of his movement executed.

On 25 May, a Liberian refugee shot a Guinean soldier dead in Yezou Village on the Guinea-Liberia border in Guinea's Forest Region, following an incident between Guinean soldiers and villagers. A few weeks ago, Yezou Village was attacked by rebels of another Liberian faction, the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia. According to humanitarian organizations, 35 people — 19 refugees and 16 Guineans — were killed in the attack.

Guinea's cabinet, which met yesterday, recalled that the country's borders "remain inviolable," and that anyone who carries out forays into Guinean territory "will be punished."

Niger

Niger: Armed Resistance Groups Decide To Close Ranks

AB2905121096 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 0545 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Resistance Organization [ORA] and the Coordination of the Armed Resistance [CRA] have met for four days in Niamey. The meeting is aimed at helping the two sides to close their ranks. At the end of the meeting, the representatives of the two movements of the former armed resistance issued a statement in which they decided to close their ranks. It is read by ORA deputy chairman (Mohamed Akote).

[Begin (Akote) recording] After frank and fruitful discussions which were held in a relaxed atmosphere, characterized by a sense of responsibility, the two sides decided on the following:

1. The creation of a technical negotiating committee which will be in charge of harmonizing and defending the position of the resistance in the application of the agreement.
2. The adoption of the fundamental rules governing the organization, operation, and functioning of the said committee. Furthermore, the committee will conduct the forthcoming negotiations with the government on the implementation of the 24 April 1995 agreement. The armed resistance urges the government to strictly implement the clauses of the agreement of 24 April 1995. Also, concerning the forthcoming general elections, the armed resistance has the right to remain neutral in accordance with laws governing it.

[Signed for the ORA by] Chairman Rhissa Ag Boula
[Signed for the CRA by] Chairman (Mohamed Akote)
issued in Niamey on 28 May 1996.

I thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Niger: Fifth Candidate Enters Presidential Contest

AB2905223996 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 1900 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A fifth candidate for the July presidential election, Mahamadou Issoufou, chairman of the Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism [PNDS]-Tarayya, was selected by his party today to contest the

election. He was selected at a meeting today of the PNDS-Tarayya Central Committee.

It will be recalled that at the opening of this meeting, Mr. Issoufou reiterated his party's commitment to strive for the success of democracy in our country. He also appealed to the entire political community to mobilize itself to demand from the government the organization of free and open elections.

Nigeria

Nigeria: Commonwealth Willing To Open Dialogue on Suspension

AB2905193096 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 1800 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Commonwealth has expressed its willingness to open dialogue with Nigeria on issues which led to the country's suspension from the organization. The decision was contained in a special message from the chairman of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Committee, Mr. Stan Mudengwe, who is also the Zimbabwean foreign minister. The message was delivered today to the minister of foreign affairs, Chief Tom Ikimi, in Abuja.

Receiving the message, Tom Ikimi said Nigeria had welcomed the development and expressed delight that the Commonwealth had recognized the merit of the Nigerian position and that the country was entitled to justice and fairplay in the matter. Tom Ikimi said that the positive step taken by the Commonwealth will pave the way for constructive dialogue and a review of the matter. On the proposal that the dialogue should be held in London, the minister said that the Federal Government required an assurance from the United Kingdom that its delegation will be guaranteed safe movement during the tour.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: RUF Spokesman on Demand for Foreign Troop Withdrawal

AB2905192196 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 29 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Just as hopes were rising that the Sierra Leone Government was on the point of doing a final deal with the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels, the whole thing seemed to collapse yesterday. It was over the rebels' demand that foreign troops and, especially, Executive Outcomes personnel on the government side should leave Sierra Leone.

The government counterproposed that it should be done bilaterally as the rebels disarmed. That was the sticking point. On the line to Abidjan, Josephine Hazely asked RUF spokesman Fayia Musa why they were insisting foreign troops must go first.

[Begin recording] [Musa] We want the foreign troops to leave before we can disarm, because we find it very, very much suicidal to disarm our own combatants while the foreign troops are there in arms. We expect the Sierra Leone Government to trust the Sierra Leone military forces so that while they stay in arms, we send all the foreign troops away including the mercenaries before the RUFSL [RUF of Sierra Leone] can disarm in any way.

[Hazely] Why can't you agree to disarm simultaneously? I mean, then it would be easy all round, won't it?

[Musa] We expect the Sierra Leone Government to trust Sierra Leone military forces, but they have no confidence in them. Nobody knows why, and perhaps I would ask you to ask them why they think they cannot trust the Sierra Leone military forces and keep them in arms while we send the foreign troops and the Executive Outcomes out of the country.

[Hazely] The government says it is you in the RUF who can't be trusted, because you might regroup and attack as you did the last time.

[Musa] If we want to attack them we would not be hypocritical at all about a cease-fire. We have announced a cease-fire, which is holding. That cease-fire is unilateral in the sense that it is the RUFSL which has announced it to enable Sierra Leoneans including the RUFSL and the government to meet and to discuss it, and to see that peace is in place.

[Hazely] What is the next stage then? Are you prepared to make compromise?

[Musa] We are appealing to them to send them away, because if they don't send them away, we see it suicidal to disarm. We are going to keep the guns silent, but we cannot disarm at all. We are still appealing to them to send the foreign troops away and to trust the Sierra Leone Government forces and the RUFSL so that we can sort ourselves out easily. The presence of the Executive Outcomes in Sierra Leone has caused us so much devastation that we cannot for any reason keep them here and disarm. We cannot do that at all. We can

keep the guns silent so that our people can go back to their farms, people can go back to their bushes to harvest their produce, and so on, but we cannot disarm at all, because we find it suicidal. I don't fancy a government that does not trust its own Army.

[Hazely] You know, your current stance leaves you open to the charge of letting the people of Sierra Leone down again.

[Musa] The RUFSL, if it had decided at all to let Sierra Leoneans down, it wouldn't have been here by now. Let us send the foreign troops away so that we can have confidence. With the presence of the foreign troops there is no confidence. [end recording]

Sierra Leone RUF spokesman Fayia Musa. Well, it must all come as quite a bitter blow for Sierra Leoneans who were, perhaps, beginning to believe that a lasting peace was just around the corner. With the reaction, Victor Sylver reports in this telex from Freetown.

The news that the peace talks have been broken off has been received here with mixed feelings. One Freetown resident said: It was too good to be true. I knew that somewhere along line there would be a catch. How can any sensible government, knowing the past record of the RUF, be so naive as to accept the total withdrawal of foreign troops as a precondition for disarming? And, it was this catch that has been drawing the most criticism here. Even top sources in the military were stunned that the RUF should have made such a request knowing full well that such preconditions would not be acceptable.

School children, street traders, and the ordinary man in the street have all been asking today if the RUF is really serious about bringing peace to Sierra Leone. One person said: I suspect that what they really want is to ensure the safety of their fighters, and that assurance can only come out of a neutral force such as the OAU, the UN, or ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], which would have to supervise the whole process of disarming and encamping RUF fighters.

Meanwhile, a former intelligence officer, (Eltayi Bah), has been arrested. Although no official statement has been issued, it is believed that he was picked up because he attended peace talks in Abidjan, purportedly, on the rebels' side. However, Mr. (Bah) told me he was at the talks because he is very much interested in restoring peace in Sierra Leone.

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